

From: [Monarque, Brenda \(NIH/NIDA\) \[E\]](#)
To: [Johnson, Ellie \(NIH/NIDA\) \[E\]](#); [Selmane, Myriam \(NIH/NIDA\) \[E\]](#)
Cc: [Le, Monglan \(NIH/NIDA\) \[E\]](#)
Subject: FW: Medical Marijuana
Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 4:37:17 PM

FYI

From: Volkow, Nora (NIH/NIDA) [E]
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 4:22 PM
To: Ehlinger, Ed (MDH)
Cc: Rutter, Joni (NIH/NIDA) [E]; Weiss, Susan (NIH/NIDA) [E]; Monarque, Brenda (NIH/NIDA) [E]
Subject: Re: Medical Marijuana

Dear Dr Ehlinger: We are preparing to fund the development of marihuana cigarettes with a high content of CBD so that they can become available for studies that want to evaluate it for medical indications (we might even have some already available). I am copying Dr Rutter who oversees this project at NIDA. I am also copying Dr Weiss who has been interacting with our colleagues at the Neurology Institute (NINDS) vis a vis research on the potential of CBD for intractable pediatric seizures. This way you can interact directly with them as it related to your project for testing CBD in epilepsy. Let me know if there is anything else that I can help with

sincerely nora d volkow

From: <Ehlinger>, "Ed (MDH)" <Ed.Ehlinger@state.mn.us>
Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 11:51 AM
To: "Volkow, Nora (NIH/NIDA) [E]" <nvolkow@nida.nih.gov>
Subject: Medical Marijuana

Dear Dr. Volkow:

I called your office this morning and was advised that the best way to communicate with you is through e-mail.

In Minnesota, like many states in the U.S., there is a push to legalize medical marijuana. Since the term being used is "medical marijuana," our Governor would like to make sure that whatever happens with therapeutic cannabis is part of our health care system and not part of a parallel system of care. With that in mind the Governor has proposed that the State of MN fund a clinical trial of cannabidiol (CBD) for children with intractable seizures. The Mayo Clinic has agreed to lead the research study. He is also proposing to do a "Health Impact Assessment" on medical marijuana which would give us better information on the potential risks and benefits of legalizing medical marijuana. The Governor has proposed \$2.2 million for a clinical trial and \$350,000 for a Health Impact Assessment.

The Governor is not interested in growing cannabis in MN as a way of getting the CBD. That poses a problem for us. That's why I would like to talk with you to see what suggestions you have about how we might proceed. We don't want to legalize medical marijuana like it's been done in most other states. If we can't gain access to CBD, we are worried that the legalization folks will have enough political clout to pass a bill that would go beyond what I and the Governor are comfortable with. Any advice that you might provide would be appreciated.

Ed

Edward P. Ehlinger, MD, MSPH
Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Health
625 Robert St. N.
P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
(651) 201-5810
Assistant: Sandy Pizzuti
Sandy.pizzuti@state.mn.us
(651) 201-5804